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A-TROOPS:240

GTOM (AP) - ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONCEDE THEY HAVE

GENE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SETTING UP A COMMAND STRUCTURE IN CUBA; ACCORDING TO A BROADCAST REPORT. BUT THEY DENY THAT A BRIGADE OF SOVIET TROOPS HAS BEEN MOVED INTO CUBA.

ABC NEWS QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES FRIDAY AS SAYING POSSIBLY 6,000 SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO CUBA WITHIN THE LAST 15 DAYS.

HOWEVER, NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE BUILD-UP.

THE NETWORK SAID UNIDENTIFIED SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STRONGLY DENIED THE REPORT; BUT THESE OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE THAT A HIGH-RANKING SOVIET COMMAND STRUCTURE, CAPABLE OF HANDLING A BRIGADE-SIZE FORCE, WAS BEING SET UP IN CUBA.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN RECENTLY TOLD A PRIVATE SESSION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY "SUBSTANTIAL" INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN CUBA OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

EARLIER THIS WEEK, SEN. RICHARD STONE, D-FLA., SAID HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT SOVIET FORCES IN CUBA WERE COMPOSED OF MORE THAN ADVISERS OR TRAINERS.

HE URGED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO PROMPTLY TELL THE PUBLIC WHAT IT KNOWS ABOUT SOVIET TROOPS BASED IN CUBA.

ASKED ABOUT THE ABC REPORT, STONE SAID FRIDAY NIGHT, "I REMAIN DISSATISFIED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S STATEMENTS ON THIS MATTER; BUT I DON'T WISH TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT."

THE SENATOR SAID HE WAS NOT THE SOURCE FOR THE ABC REPORT AND HE DECLINED TO COMMENT FURTHER ON IT.

Cuba 7/21.

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FRIDAY - FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF OUR COMBAT ELEMENTS IN KOREA SHOULD AWAIT CREDIBLE INDICATIONS THAT A SATISFACTORY MILITARY BALANCE HAS BEEN RESTORED AND A REDUCTION IN TENSION IS UNDER WAY."

"RECENT STUDIES BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SIZE OF NORTH KOREA'S GROUND FORCES, ARMOR, FIRE POWER AND MOBILITY ARE LARGER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED," HE SAID.

IN A STATEMENT READ BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, CARTER SAID "HOLDING FURTHER WITHDRAWALS OF U.S. GROUND COMBAT UNITS IN ABEYANCE WILL HELP REINFORCE DETERRENCE."

HE SAID THE DECISION WAS NECESSARY TO "AVOID CONVEYING MISLEADING SIGNALS TO THE NORTH AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR SOUTH KOREA TO PUT ITS GROUND DEFENSES IN ORDER."

BRZEZINSKI TOLD REPORTERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE THAT THE TIMING AND PACE OF FUTURE AMERICAN WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE EXAMINED AGAIN IN 1981.

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(SOVIET TROOPS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - WHITE HOUSE AND PENTAGON SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY DENIED A REPORT THE SOVIET UNION IN RECENT WEEKS HAS MOVED UP TO 6,000 COMBAT-READY TROOPS INTO CUBA.

THE REPORT WAS CARRIED BY ABC EVENING NEWS WHICH QUOTED INTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

A PENTAGON OFFICIAL SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN HAD DISCOUNTED A SIMILAR REPORT DURING A CLOSED SESSION LAST TUESDAY OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO A SUGGESTION BY SEN. DICK STONE, D-FLA, IN THE OPEN SESSION THAT THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE INTRODUCED "COMBAT CAPABLE" TROOPS INTO CUBA IN POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE U.S.-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING THAT ENDED THE 1963 MISSILE CRISIS.

AFTER THE CLOSED SESSION, SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND SEN. JACOB JAVITS, R-N.Y., THE RANKING REPUBLICAN, ISSUED A STATEMENT QUOTING BROWN AS DENYING ANY MAJOR SOVIET BUILDUP IN CUBA.

THE STATEMENT SAID BROWN HAD TOLD THE PANEL "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN CUBA OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

THE WHITE HOUSE FRIDAY SIMPLY DENIED THE STORY.

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